



## **COUNTY/STATE LIAISON REPORT**

AUGUST 2004 - ED WILLIAMS

### **CA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE**

California Performance Review - As you might know, the California Performance Review's report on reforming and revitalizing state government was released to the public on Tuesday, August 3, 2004. The report can be accessed on the web at: <http://cpr.ca.gov/>. The process now, is for the California Performance Review Commission to receive public input on the report and recommendations. There are opportunities to provide input at public meetings around the State and over the internet.

Excerpts From CPR Report, Department of Food and Agriculture - The Department of Food and Agriculture is a model of the type of vertically integrated, customer focused and mission driven department this organizational framework hopes to replicate throughout state government. The Department exemplifies the provision of a single point of contact and authority for issues relating to one of the state's largest industries and public resources. An analysis of the Department does, however, suggest modest changes are necessary. California's food safety programs are primarily contained within the Department of Food and Agriculture; however, some vital components fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health Services. To improve efficient delivery of service and bolster public protection against food borne illness, these functions should to be transferred to the Department of Food and Agriculture. In contrast, despite its origins as an oversight function for agricultural production, the expanded mission of the Department's Division of Weights and Measurement, which includes a variety of consumer transactions-from supermarkets to gasoline stations-suggests that this function should be transferred to the state agency responsible for consumer protection. Finally, in an effort to refocus government on essential functions and to redirect functions to cooperative public-private ventures, where possible, the California Performance Review recommends that the 54 District Agricultural Associations-commonly referred to as "county fairs"-and the Department's Commodity Boards (including marketing agreements and similar arrangements) be transformed into public benefit corporations. These recommendations are discussed in greater detail within Volume 4 of the report of the California Performance Review.

#### CDFA General Fund Budget 04/05 Budget – Brief Summary of General Fund by Division:

Of the \$61.08 million state operations amount, \$22.74 million is allocated to Animal Health and Food Safety Services (\$10.620 million is for the UC Food Safety Laboratory System), \$36.33 million is allocated to Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, \$1.92 million is allocated to Measurement Standards, and the remaining is allocated for general agricultural activities.

- 2004/05 – Total Budget \$266.5 million; 73 million general fund dollars. This represents approximately a 27.5% percent reduction in the agency's General Fund since the 2000/01 Fiscal Year.
- 2004/05 – proposed general fund reduction - \$2.8 million (Pierce's Disease of \$2 million and \$831,000 in Public Affairs, Ag Export, and Office of Agriculture and Environmental Policy. The budget proposes to redirect \$4.5 million in local assistance funds to maintain the operations of the Border stations.

- 2003/04 – control section 4.1 of the 2003 Budget Act – required CDFA to reduce its budget by \$10 million (\$4.8 million in general funds and \$5.2 million in special funds). Approximately 5 percent reduction in general fund dollars. Included closure of 11 out of the 16 Border Stations.
- 2000/01 – 2002/03 – reductions consisted of 256 positions and \$16.8 million in general fund dollars – approximately 16 percent reduction.
- 2000/01 Total Budget \$246.5 million; \$100.9 million general fund dollars.

CDFA Position Management Changes - While the CDFA's position management practices had been in place for several decades, the Legislative Analyst's Office felt that the department's practices needed to be more closely aligned with other Departments in the State. Approximately 770 positions are funded out of the department's continuous appropriations blanket with industry funds. When CDFA sought new positions associated with continuous appropriations, the department submitted budget requests to the Secretary. Upon approval the department established the positions and was not required to seek approval outside of CDFA. Industry boards and CDFA provided oversight of these programs, funds, and positions. The Legislature has proposed the adoption of a trailer bill to specify that the department's continuous appropriations do not exempt it from the normal position approval process.

Description of CDFA Search Engine Enhancements - The search engine for the CDFA Web site has been redesigned with the public in mind. It now offers two options to choose: 1) search "My CA" which uses the State Portal's search engine; or 2) search "CDFA" which uses both a specific database of Web pages and the Google search engine in tandem. If the "CDFA" option is picked (it's the default for searches) the user can enter a keyword or term and ask for results. If the term used is in the database, a new browser window will open and display the specific Web page handling or introducing that topic (e.g., "West Nile Virus" or "Sudden Oak Death"); if the term is not yet in the database, then the Google search engine takes over automatically and will specifically search **\*\*all of CDFA only\*\*** and return a list of links from which the user can choose the most relevant or appropriate. So here we have the best of both searches: one specific to particular pages in our own database and the other using the demonstrated power of the Google search engine. Note: Google has specifically allowed CDFA to link to their search engine-- at absolutely no cost to us-- nor do they require us to post their logo on the search box that appears on our Web pages, although their company logo does appear on any pages of links that result from each search.

California Department of Food and Agriculture Hires New Budget Officer - Mr. Jack Wright has accepted the position as in the Division of Administrative Services, effective June 30, 2004. Jack recently served as Budget Officer for the Department of Financial Institutions. Jack's previous employment has also included work for the Department of Corrections and 13 years with CDFA working in the Accounting and Budget offices.

New Director of the Division of Fairs & Expositions - Mike Treacy, the former Chief Executive Officer of the Kern County Fair for the past 16 years, has accepted the position of Director of the Division of Fairs & Expositions, effective July 16, 2004. Prior to his tenure in Bakersfield, he served as General Manager of the Jackson County Exposition Park in Medford, Oregon, and Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager for the City of Morgantown, West Virginia.

Timothy Jacob Richard Corcoran was born at 2:36 pm on Saturday, June 26, 2004 to Lana (County/State Liaison, Office Tech) and Tim Corcoran. He weighed in at 7lbs and 12oz. He is 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great. Big sister Alexa is still adjusting, but has decided having a baby brother is a good thing. Lana will be out of the office for a few weeks on maternity leave.

### **Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship**

Water Quality – CDFA staff recently attended a briefing by the US/EPA on the status of remedial activities at the Kerr McGhee facility. The Kerr McGhee facility along with the neighboring Petcon Company at one time produced nearly all the Perchlorate in the United States. Both facilities have extensive ground water contamination. The Kerr McGhee facility is responsible for contamination of the Lower Colorado River. The Lower Colorado is the source of irrigation water supply for the Imperial Basin. Ground water in California has been contaminated through artificial recharge and incidental recharge. This is not on the national priorities list, because remedial activities are managed by the Nevada Environmental Protection Agency. California has not provided input into the cleanup of this facility. This briefing was a first step to review what is being done and to access potential involvement for California.

Modified Crops Issue Qualifies For Fall Ballot - Tuesday, June 08, 2004 - A campaign to ban genetically modified crops in Marin County has qualified for the November 2, 2004 ballot.

Air Quality - Matt Summers is providing input to the Air Resources Board on a study of emissions from dairy operations to take place this fall. Data from the study and other ongoing University studies will be used by the ARB to recalculate the emissions factor for dairy production. This will impact the air permitting process in the San Joaquin Valley and other parts of the state. Matt also attended a scoping meeting at the San Joaquin Valley Air District on the implementation of SB 705, requiring the elimination of certain types of agricultural burning by 2010. Now is the time for the Department to give input on the need for burning for certain types of disease control and input on the effectiveness and economics of alternatives. Agriculture Commissioners from the region are also engaged in the process.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program - The next meeting of the Authority is August 11 in the afternoon and all day on August 12 in Sacramento. Agenda items for August 11 include adopting criteria for approving program plans, and approving 2004 program plans; update on the 10-year finance plan. Items for August 12 include approval of the Delta Improvements Package Action Plan; approval of various program actions under ecosystem restoration, water quality, watersheds and science. Of interest is the approval of guidelines proposed by the SWRCB for the agriculture water quality grant program.

### **County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers**

Tehama County Board Appoints New County Agricultural Commissioner - The Tehama County Board of Supervisors appointed Rick Gurrola for the position of Agricultural

Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures on June 8, 2004. Please join me in welcoming Rick and wishing success in his new position.

Retiring Commissioners and Sealers - Cato Fiksdal has announced his retirement after 31 years of service in Los Angeles County on July 18, 2004; John Westoby announced his retirement on July 2, 2004, after 31 years of service in Fresno and Sonoma Counties; Mark Tognazini announced his retirement on April 30, 2004, after 41 years of service in San Benito County; and John Falkenstrom announced his retirement on April 30, 2004 after 31 years of service in Shasta, Lake and Humboldt Counties. We will miss these great leaders in county agriculture. Please join me in wishing them a happy and productive retirement.

San Francisco County Reorganization – The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures in San Francisco County recently informed CDFA that the City/County of San Francisco is considering reorganizing their Consumer Assurance Unit, placing the County Agricultural Programs and most of the Weights and Measures Programs under the County Health Department. CDFA and the California Agricultural Commissioners And Sealers Association (CACASA) are reviewing issues surrounding this proposed move and discussing how San Francisco County plans to maintain the integrity of our mutual programs with the Director of the Environmental Health, Dr. Rajiv Bhatia. Lynn Savage, Danny Merkley, and Ed Williams met on Friday, July 30, 2004 to discuss licensing requirements for a Commissioner/Sealer in a charter county with human resources staff from the San Francisco County Department of Health.

WWW.CACASA.ORG Website - The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association has added a section to its web site for correspondence, conference and committee agendas, and minutes.

Commissioner/Sealer and Deputy Licensees - Address Changes – Anyone who has had an address change since they were issued a license for Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, or Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures should make sure to give their new address/contact information to Exam Unit Coordinator, Lynn Savage. This will facilitate receipt of information regarding job opportunities in counties other than your own. Lynn can be contacted at (916) 654-9633.

A New CDFA Telephone Directory has been completed and it has been posted on the County Notification System, see end of report for information on getting connected to the County Notification system.

### **Crop Damage Information and Disaster Assistance**

Federal Disaster Funds Authorized For California To Aid Flood Recovery In San Joaquin County - July 1, 2004. » California Flooding As A Result Of A Levee Break. Federal disaster funds have been made available for California to supplement state and local recovery efforts in San Joaquin County struck by floods stemming from a levee break that occurred on June 3, 2004. President Bush authorized the aid under a major disaster declaration signed June 30, 2004 following a review of FEMA's analysis of the state's request for federal assistance. The declaration covers damage to public property from flooding beginning on June 3. FEMA has designated San Joaquin County eligible for

federal funding to pay state and affected local governments 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal, emergency services related to the floods, and the repair or replacement of damaged public facilities. Federal funds will also be available to the county on a cost-shared basis for approved projects that reduce future disaster risks. On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

Meeting with Growers Regarding Jones Tract Levee Break in San Joaquin County – Scott Hudson and his staff hosted a meeting with Secretary Kawamura, emergency management agency staffers, and growers impacted by the Jones Tract levee break of June 3, 2004 in the San Joaquin Delta. The meeting took place on Monday, July 26, 2004, at 1:30 pm at the Robert's Union Island Farm Center. The US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a major Disaster Designation for San Joaquin County on June 30, 2004. FEMA approved federal reimbursement up to 75% for expenses to mitigate this emergency for public agencies. This Presidential Declaration also made several USDA disaster assistance programs available to farmers who were impacted by the flooding that resulted. The USDA, Risk Management Agency also discussed issues concerning crop insurance during the meeting.

Small business loans available in eleven counties - In an effort to make up for losses caused by too much rain last spring, the U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-interest loans to business owners in 11 rural counties. Small business owners in San Luis Obispo, Kern, Kings, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba counties are eligible for loans up to \$1.5 million with an interest rate of 3 percent. The money is only being made available to non-farm businesses. Farmers and ranchers who suffered economic effects from the spring storms are eligible for financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Borrowers must show they lost money because of reduced business from customers like farmers or ranchers who were hurt by the unseasonable rains.

USDA Designates Counties In California, Missouri, Nebraska And Washington As Agriculture Disaster Areas - August 4, 2004. The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated counties in California, Missouri, Nebraska and Washington as primary agricultural disaster areas.

California – August 2, 2004, Butte, Glenn and Yuba Counties in California are designated as primary disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by high temperatures and low humidity that occurred from March 12, 2004, through March 15, 2004. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter and Tehama; Fresno County in California is also designated as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by hot weather that occurred from March 4, 2004, through March 31, 2004. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Inyo, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito and Tulare; Merced County in California is also designated as primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by high temperatures and wind that occurred on March 25, 2004. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Fresno, Mariposa, Madera, San

Benito, Santa Clara and Stanislaus; and Sutter County in California is designated as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by high temperatures and low humidity that occurred from March 9, 2004, through March 22, 2004. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Butte, Colusa, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo and Yuba. All qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency (EM) loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the loans. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

USDA Designates Counties In California, Michigan, Montana And Texas As Agriculture Disaster Areas - Decision Allows Farmers and Ranchers to Apply for USDA Assistance. May 4, 2004. The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated counties in California, Michigan, Montana and Texas as primary agricultural disaster areas.

California -Placer County in California is designated as a primary natural disaster area due to damages and losses caused by rain, winter chill and heat that occurred from Aug. 1, 2003, through Oct. 31, 2004. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of El Dorado, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba; San Luis Obispo County in California is designated as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by insufficient chill hours, rain and heat that occurred from April 1, 2003, through Oct. 31, 2003. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Kern, Kings, Monterey and Santa Barbara; and Santa Barbara County in California is designated as a primary disaster area due to damages and losses caused by insufficient chill hours, cool, wet weather and heat. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Kern, San Luis Obispo and Ventura.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES**

Dr. Annette Whiteford has been appointed to the position of Director of Animal Health and Food Safety Services, effective July 1, 2004. This followed the appointment of Dr. Richard Breitmeyer to the position of State Veterinarian by Governor Schwarzenegger.

Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator - Effective May 10, 2004, Rita Witucki was appointed to a 3-month assignment to act as the Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. She is reporting directly to Dr. Breitmeyer. Her primary responsibilities include managing the Department's interagency agreement with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) related to emergency preparedness; coordinating Department level emergency response planning, training, and exercises; and acting as a central point of contact for Department level emergency preparedness issues.

West Nile Virus Equine Cases In California – As of Thursday, July 29, 2004, there have been 44 confirmed equine West Nile Virus cases in California, including the total reported number of horses (21) that have died or have been euthanized resulting from WNV infection. NONE of the horses that died were current on their WNV vaccination status. For the first time, two of the infected horses were from north of the Tehachapi Mountain Range, in the Central Valley (Bakersfield and Elk Grove). All of these horses were either non-vaccinates or partially vaccinated and not current with their annual booster shots. The obvious BIG MESSAGE to deliver to our horsemen is: If your horse is not vaccinated,

or if you are unsure about the vaccination status being current, consult your local veterinary practitioner immediately.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Monitoring Program – CDFA has joined the USDA in conducting a monitoring program to test high-risk animals for BSE. To date in the US there have been two inconclusive tests, which upon further testing turned out to be negative for BSE. For additional information see the CDFA Web Site at [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/bse\\_info.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/bse_info.htm), or contact the Animal Health Branch at (916) 654-1447.

## **INSPECTION SERVICES**

Inspection and Compliance Branch Appointments - Ed Brown has been appointed as an Agricultural Program Supervisor II. Ed's duties will primarily be to oversee the administrative functions of the branch, personnel, accounting, field office operations etc. His working title is "Assistant Branch Chief" and will therefore be taking lead responsibility in the absence of the Branch Chief. Gary Manning has been appointed as the Agricultural Program Supervisor II in charge of the Standardization Program. After several years directing the Wine Grape Inspection program, Gary is now responsible for ensuring that the fruit and vegetable provisions contained within the Ag Code are carried out with uniformity and consistency. Ed Page was recently appointed as an Agricultural Program Supervisor II with the Shipping Point Inspection Program. He will coordinate and manage several statewide commodity inspection programs for the Shipping Point Inspection program, including tree fruit, grapes, melons, root crops, and mixed vegetables.

## **MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

Western Weights and Measures Association - The next Annual Meeting of the Western Weights and Measures Association will be held at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, California, September 11-17, 2004. Reduced registration rates are available before August 14, 2004. See <http://www.westernwma.org/> for additional details.

Consumer Information Curriculum – The Division of Measurement Standards is in the initial stages of developing a series of consumer information presentations relating to weights and measures for school age children K-12. If you know of anyone who might be able to help/partner with us in this effort or if you already have material or information that might be helpful we would be very grateful to be made aware of it.

Determination of Net Quantity for Enhanced Meat Products – DMS Notice QC-04-3, August 2, 2004. The USDA, Food Safety and Inspection service has provided clarification of its policy for determining the net weight of meat and poultry products labeled as “enhanced and/or marinated with solution.” State and county regulatory officials are preempted from using tests to determine the net weight of these products that are different than USDA. The USDA’s position on enhanced meat products is “because the solutions added are identified as part of the product names, whether the solution is incorporated into the product or is free flowing, it is considered part of the product. As such it is expected that the labeled net weight applied at a federal establishment represents essentially the weight of the product minus the packaging.” For additional

information on this subject please contact Ken Lake at (916) 229-3047.

Octane Label Size Exemptions - DMS Notice P – 04 – 1, June 2, 2004. Over the years, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has granted various exemptions from the octane label size requirements to pump manufacturers and fuel marketers. Generally, the FTC has determined that labels, which are slightly smaller than required would still clearly and conspicuously disclose to consumers the octane level of the gasoline dispensed from the pump. The exemptions primarily are for customer product selection buttons on multiple product dispensers. The exemptions also allow the inclusion of words like “press” on the octane label/button. Questions relating to octane labels and posting may be directed to David Lazier, Weighmaster/Petroleum Branch Chief at (916) 229-3044.

Macy’s Settlement – May 26, 2004. The district attorney’s offices from Marin, Los Angeles, Sonoma, San Diego, and Shasta counties have announced a settlement with Macy’s West Inc. in a case that alleged price accuracy irregularities in Macy’s California stores. Macy’s agreed to the settlement without admitting to wrongdoing. Fines and penalties total nearly \$1.7 million, along with a \$5.00 off coupon for customers in August in a number of newspapers. CDFA’s Division of Measurement Standards and County Sealers from across the State participated in the investigation.

## **PLANT HEALTH AND PEST PREVENTION**

Personnel Changes – Gary Agosta retired from the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch on April 30, 2004, after 27 years of state service; Debbie Tanouye has been promoted to fill the Program Supervisor IV for Pest Detection and Emergency Projects as of August 1, 2004; William Sandige was promoted to Branch Chief position in the Pest Exclusion Branch, and Larry Bezark was promoted to Branch Chief for the Integrated Pest Control Branch, respectively. These appointments were effective June 1, 2004; Gary Leslie has been appointed to the Program Supervisor IV position in charge of the border stations effective July 1, 2004; David Godfrey has been appointed to the Program Supervisor IV position for the Nursery, Seed and Cotton Program effective July 15, 2004; and Asif Maan has been promoted to the Branch Chief position in the Commodity Regulatory Services Branch in the Division of Inspection services, also effective July 15, 2004. Please join me in congratulating these longtime CDFA employees on their retirement and promotions.

Oriental Fruit Fly, Orange County - Since June 28, 19 Oriental fruit flies (14 males/5 unmated females) have been detected in the Santa Ana/Tustin area of Orange County. In response, CDFA has been making Oriental fruit fly male annihilation treatments in a 22 square mile area around the finds. The third male annihilation treatment in Santa Ana was completed on July 27. The treatment area is 22 square miles. An interior quarantine of 116 square miles is in place. Pest Exclusion staff are issuing hold orders on properties within 200 meters of fruit fly detection sites, issuing compliance agreements to swap meet vendors, yard maintenance workers, and mobile fruit vendors. There are approximately 27 growers in the quarantine area producing 400 acres of row crops, citrus, and avocados that will be affected by the quarantine. Up to 25 nurseries may also be affected by the quarantine. As a part of the public education/awareness program, quarantine information posters are being posted at public libraries, city halls, parcel terminals, community gardens, nurseries, certified farmer’s markets, swap meets, and high-risk

markets.

Oriental Fruit Fly, San Bernardino County - In addition, CDFA has Oriental fruit fly eradication projects in progress in Montclair and Chino Hills, San Bernardino County. The third treatment was completed on July 21. The fourth male annihilation treatment in Montclair/Chino Hills began on August 3. No additional Oriental fruit flies have been detected in the Montclair and Chino Hills area.

Africanized Honeybee, Madera County - Africanized honeybee has been found for the first time in Madera County. The discovery was made during the annual survey by CDFA and county staff outside the colonized area of California. The first naturally migrating swarm of Africanized honeybees was found in 1994 near Blythe, Riverside County. Currently, the Africanized honeybee colonized area is 63,303 square miles that includes all of Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Tulare and Ventura counties. Also included are portions of Inyo, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Starfruit at the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market - On July 23, the USDA Safeguarding, Intervention and Trade Compliance Program (SITC) in Bell received a tip from a wholesale produce seller. The seller stated that fresh starfruit, *Averrhoa carambola*, from Mexico was being sold at the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market. This fruit is enterable from Mexico if cold treated, but there are currently no USDA approved cold treatment facilities. The fruit was distributed to five Southern California counties and the states of Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. SITC coordinated efforts with CDFA-ACIT Investigators and Biologists that included seizing, inspecting, and destroying all Mexican starfruit. A total of 407 pounds of Mexican starfruit was seized in Los Angeles and San Diego counties. USDA-SITC is conducting out-of-state traceforwards.

New Hydrilla Find, Nevada County - On July 29, Robert Leavitt and Ross O'Connell of the Integrated Pest Control Branch, and Paul Boch, Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner and John Mills, Nevada County Agricultural Biologist, investigated the latest hydrilla detection in the state. This detection was made by a salesman for Cygnet Enterprises West, Inc. and confirmed by the CDFA Botany Laboratory. The site is a fire control pond, approximately 0.6 acres in size, and 18 feet deep, at the County of Nevada Sanitation District waste disposal facility. The pond is plastic lined, and the site is a zero runoff site. The investigation revealed that about 15 percent of the surface area of the pond was covered with hydrilla, which filled the water column where it was present. The Pest Exclusion Branch, Permits and Regulations, and the State Water Resources Control Board have all been alerted to this new hydrilla site. A site-specific eradication protocol is under development.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Fact Finding Tour - On July 30, Frank Zarate of the Integrated Pest Control Branch and Tom McNabb of Clean Lakes, Inc. hosted Jarma Bennett and Philip Isorena of the State Water Resources Control Board on a fact-finding tour of aquatic herbicide applications and water monitoring on Clear Lake. The State Water Resources Control Board administers the general permit for aquatic herbicide application in the state, under the NPDES of the Clean Water Act. Mr. Zarate

and Mr. McNabb demonstrated aquatic herbicide application techniques and methods, discussed environmental considerations in regards to timing and methods of application, demonstrated aquatic weed identification, and showed them the CDFA Hydrilla Eradication Program's hydrilla eradication and water monitoring sites on the lake.

Citrus Canker in Australia - Citrus canker has been discovered in an orchard in Queensland, Australia. There is now a ban on the interstate movement of Queensland citrus fruits and the infected trees are being destroyed. Citrus canker has been found four other times in Australia; however, this is the first detection in a commercial crop. Biosecurity Australia will be working with concerned trading partners.

Vote To Revive Fire-Ant Program - The fight against red imported fire ants in Orange County will be revived, as a result of a mail-in election. Residents in the Orange County Vector Control District voted in favor of a fee to pay for fire ant eradication. District directors meet today to approve the fee officially. It will help make up for eradication money the state had contributed before its budget crisis. Fire ants sting people and animals and damage crops. From CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, August 5, 2004.

Fire Ant Infested Nursery Stock - At the Blythe Inspection Station, a nursery stock shipment from Country Joe's Nursery in Lakeworth, Florida was found to be infested with three different types of live ants. The three species of ants were digitally identified: White-footed ant, *Technomyrmex albipesa* (rated Q), *Pheidole* sp. (rated Q), and a queen red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta* (rated A). Due to the presence of a reproductive form of red imported fire ant, the shipment was returned to origin under a Federal Limited Permit and Country Joe's Nursery has been suspended from future shipments to California. Information has been retrieved from the database for Pest Exclusion Interior Program to follow up with previous deliveries from this nursery.

Smuggling Tip - On July 16, the Winterhaven agricultural inspection station received an anonymous tip regarding the smuggling of uncertified nursery stock into California from Florida. The tip gave detailed information regarding a single truck shipment. On July 18, the suspect shipment arrived at our Blythe agricultural inspection station where it was sealed and allowed to proceed to destination. Upon arrival, it was offloaded and inspected by county agricultural commissioner and Pest Exclusion staff. The shipment was found to contain a large number of plants that were not declared at the border station upon entry. The plants are currently on hold and an investigation into the matter is pending.

Vanda Scale Interception from Mexico - On July 17, during routine sampling, inspectors at the Blythe agricultural inspection station found a shipment of mangoes from Mexico's "pest free zone" to be infested with *Genaparlatoria psuedapidiotus*, Vanda orchid scale, a quarantine action pest. As per agreement between California and Mexico, each of the mango cartons had the statement "hot water treated for scales of concern to California" stamped on it. However, the scales found were alive. The shipment was rejected and returned out of state.

Threatened and Endangered Species Identification - Division staff have developed a method of identifying the presence of threatened or endangered species within any defined area (i.e. a quarantine zone, treatment area, etc.) by interfacing site maps with the data contained in the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base

(NDDDB). Review of the NDDDB is required by conditions of Memoranda of Understanding adopted with the Department of Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a part of the previously approved environmental review process for exotic fruit fly eradication and male annihilation projects. The findings of the NDDDB review, along with any mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts to listed species, are sent to the USFWS for their approval at the beginning of any emergency project. The new method is faster, more accurate on the ground, and leaves a better record than previous NDDDB reviews. This method of sensitive species evaluation could be extended to other programs as well. Rosie Yacoub of the IPC GIS Database Lab, John Pozzi of Pest Detection/Emergency Projects and Jim Rains, Staff Environmental Scientist, collaborated on this project.

USDA Emergency Order to Amend Sudden Oak Death Quarantine - On April 9, the United States Department of Agriculture issued an emergency order to amend the *Phytophthora ramorum* federal domestic quarantine to regulate the interstate movement of hosts and associated host nursery stock of *P. ramorum*, causal organism of sudden oak death from California. Although the amended federal domestic quarantine allows movement of regulated articles if produced at a nursery that has been inspected and found free *P. ramorum*, fifteen states and Canada continue to restrict or prohibit plant material and/or soil from California due to concerns that certified material and non-host material will spread the disease. The states of Florida, Kentucky, and Louisiana are the most restrictive by prohibiting all plants from California. Florida has, however, now notified us that non-hosts or associated host plants may be shipped to that state if accompanied by a state phytosanitary certificate stating that the plants were inspected and found apparently free of sudden oak death.

Sudden Oak Death Funding - From COMTF Newsletter, On May 18, US Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman transferred \$15.5 million from the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to help halt the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* to non-infested areas of the United States. When added to the \$2.5 million that APHIS has already provided for the national survey and the \$2 million of appropriated funds, the USDA PPQ has committed \$20 million to the program in fiscal year 2004. USDA PPQ will apply the funds to quarantine actions, nursery inspections, sampling and testing, and *Sudden Oak Death Update: Sudden Oak Death Education And Outreach* - The USDA, Plant Protection and Quarantine Western Region received more than \$12 million dollars; with nearly \$7 million going to support activities in California. The Eastern Region got \$2.5 million to support emergency actions and the national survey in states east of the Mississippi River. Additionally, nearly \$500,000 has been dedicated to laboratory diagnostics through the National Plant Diagnostic Network and other laboratories.

Lawsuit Filed Against State of Kentucky - From the August 2004 California Oak Mortality Task Force Newsletter. The California Association of Nurserymen (CAN) filed a federal suit against Kentucky on 7/12, charging the state with violating federal law by banning the importation and sale of California's *Phytophthora ramorum* host and associated plants. The lawsuit was based on a provision in the federal Plant Protection Act that gives the USDA authority over interstate plant movement. CAN's hope for the lawsuit was that all states would have to comply with the federal *P. ramorum* regulation, instead of being allowed to adopt their own state-specific restrictions. While many states have chosen not to rely solely on the USDA to protect their forests and nurseries from the disease, and

have adopted their own restrictions, CAN chose to challenge Kentucky's regulations as they were considered to be among the most restrictive, and therefore the most challenging to California's nursery industry. On 7/30, Judge Hood, a federal district judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, signed an order permanently enjoining Kentucky from having *P. ramorum* regulations that are inconsistent with the federal standard. For additional information from the California Oak Mortality Task Force contact Lucia R. Briggs, State Coordinator, California Oak Mortality Task Force, 145 Mulford Hall, #3114, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3114, (510) 642-5938, FAX: (510) 643-3490, [lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu), [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

Kentucky Agrees To End Ban On California Nursery Plants - The Associated Press. August 2, 2004. Kentucky has reached a settlement with California's nursery industry that will allow locally grown nursery plants to be shipped to that state as long as they have been certified disease-free under guidelines established by the federal government. Since spring, the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers has been locked in a dispute with Kentucky and nine other states that banned some California-grown plants. The bans were placed shortly after the fungus-like killer was discovered at two Southern California nurseries in March and despite a USDA inspection program that keeps nurseries from shipping plants out of state until they were declared disease-free. In a lawsuit filed July 9 in Frankfort, Ky., the nursery association argued that federal law prevents individual states from establishing rules that deviate from the USDA program. Kentucky settled the lawsuit and signed a consent decree Friday, July 30, 2004, in which the state agrees to adhere to USDA rules. California nursery officials viewed the lawsuit as a key test case that will help eliminate bans by Florida, Louisiana, West Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Indiana, Delaware, and Montana. California ships about \$500 million worth of plants to other states annually. The state bans and the destruction of infected plants, as well as the expense of complying with the USDA's actions related to oak death disease, have already cost growers millions of dollars.

USA Phytophthora ramorum Nursery Chronology - e California Oak Mortality Task Force has compiled a USA Phytophthora ramorum Nursery Chronology, and will keep it updated on our website in an effort to improve communication within California, and between states <http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/pdf/NurseryChronology.pdf>. Suggestions, additions, corrections, etc., should be sent to me at [lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:lbriggs@nature.berkeley.edu). A link to the pdf is below, and you will find a link to it on the home page of the website at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

Report Evaluates Pierce's Disease Fight - To battle a deadly plant disease more effectively, scientists say state and federal agencies must better coordinate their research. A National Academy of Sciences report advised the agencies on how to focus research on Pierce's disease, an ailment that kills grapevines and other plants. The report suggests strategies for battling the glassy-winged sharpshooter, an insect that carries the disease. A state official says research focuses on long-term management of the problem. From CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, August 5, 2004.

Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter In Vacaville, Solano County - On June 7, 2004, an adult female glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) was found on a trap at a commercial shopping

complex in Vacaville, Solano Co. The detection occurred in the vicinity of the factory stores, on the south side of highway 80. An intensive delimitation effort (visual survey and increased trapping) of the area was conducted. The survey found additional live GWSS in the area. Consequently, the threshold for declaring a GWSS infestation has been reached, and treatments using Carbaryl have been applied. Movement of host material from the area will be regulated to prevent spreading GWSS to other areas.

The 2004 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held December 7-10, 2004 at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort in Coronado, California. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important event. More information will be available as the date for the event approaches. In the meantime, please periodically check our website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/> for the latest information, or contact Athar Tariq, Ph.D., Pierce's Disease Program at (916) 322-2804.

2004 Cal-IPC Symposium - "Invasive Plants and the Wildland/Urban Interface" October 7-9, 2004, Holiday Inn Ventura Beach Resort in Ventura, California. Spend three days on the beautiful southern California coast meeting with other wildland weed workers from around the state and learning the latest about invasive plant biology and management. The Symposium will include speakers and posters on the Symposium theme and other current topics, working groups, trade exhibits, and exciting field trips. Registration form is available beginning May 1, 2004, at [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org). Cost: Regular registration \$205, which includes banquet dinner and additional meals. If you have questions contact Doug Johnson at [dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org](mailto:dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org), or Brianna Richardson at [brichardson@cal-ipc.org](mailto:brichardson@cal-ipc.org).

6th Annual Statewide Weed Management Area Meeting - Save the dates September 27th and 28th, 2004, for the 6th annual statewide WMA meeting in Woodland, California. Agenda topics will include:

- Update on Newest control and Restoration Techniques
- Funding sources and strategies
- Projects for Education and Outreach
- Regional Coordination
- State and Federal Legislation for WMA funding
- The State Weed Plan
- The SB1740 Final Report - Documenting Success

If you have any questions or suggestions for this event, please call Steve Schoenig, Senior Environmental Research Scientist in CDFA's Integrated Pest Control Branch (916)-654-0768, or go to <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/weedhome> for additional information.

## **COUNTY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CNS)**

The CNS is a password protected, web-based system where documents that are intended for distribution through the county agricultural commissioners and sealers offices are posted. To sign up for access to the system please send an email to Jeff Hillard [jhillard@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:jhillard@cdfa.ca.gov) or Ed Williams [Ewilliams@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Ewilliams@cdfa.ca.gov) with your completed email address, your preferred user name (usually first initial, last name), your preferred password, and your choice of notification methods (see below).

For those already using the CNS, you now have the ability to change information in your User account and to choose whether or not you wish to receive automatic email notification for new documents added daily to the CNS

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/countyag/postings/> website. A link, "User Details," has been added to the toolbar at the top of the page on the right side. From the User Details page, you can change your personal information at any time: First and Last Name, Password, Email address, and Phone Number. You have your choice of one of the following three notification options:

- Receiving an email message when any new document is posted to the site, or
  - Receiving an email message only when a new document is posted that is marked either "time sensitive" or "emergency" (all users have this option currently assigned to them as a default), or
  - Not receiving email messages for any new postings to the site of any type of document.
- In addition, below these options on the same page is a checkbox that allows you to choose whether or not you wish to receive the Weekly Digest summary message that is now sent to your email address each Monday

Note: Choosing any of these options above does not affect your ability to use your Web browser to log-on to the County Ag Postings page itself to view all online documents. Should you have any questions regarding the User Details page, please contact Jeff Hillard [jhillard@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:jhillard@cdfa.ca.gov) or Ed Williams [ewilliams@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:ewilliams@cdfa.ca.gov) for further information.

*PLEASE NOTE: Items listed above are meant to aid communication, to keep you and your staffs informed on events and issues affecting CDFA and county agriculture commissioners and sealers. Many items are abbreviated to conserve space and time required for reading.*

**Comments and Suggestions are welcome. If you have news items that you would like to share with other agricultural commissioners and sealers, or questions on any item, please call me at (916) 653-6649. For additional information please visit the CDFA website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>.**